Damage caused to Sun Temple by cyclone

419. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the apprehension expressed by the archaeological experts about the damage that may have been caused to the Sun Temple at Konark by the killer cyclone that struck coastal areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to assess the extent of damage and to initiate measures to repair the damage and protect this great piece of architecture, the Sun Temple; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to restore the plantations that were grown around the temple, to counter corrosive effect of the wind coming from the sea?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b)Yes Sir, but no damage has been caused to the structure of the Sun Temple, Konark.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has initiated action to restore the garden within the protected area of the Sun Temple, Konark. The plantation outside the monument are to be restored by the State Government; however no time-frame can be specified in this regard.

National Culture Policy

†420. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Culture Policy during the last fifty years; if so, when and the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether present Government propose to formulate any cultural policy for India; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Though attempts to formulate a comprehensive National Culture Policy were made in the past, no finality could be arrived at. However, the Government is contemplating to evolve a national cultural policy. No time limit can be specified at this point of time.

Sai's Regional Sub-Centre at Guwahati

421. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) in which year Government had taken up the scheme of construction of the Regional Sub-Centre of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) at Guwahati;

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.